

REMARKS

Claim 21 has been put into allowable condition. The phrase "all in one trip" has been taken out of the still rejected independent claims 1 and 10 as redundant to the preamble that recites a one trip operation.

Claims 1, 10 and 22 are the remaining independent claims rejected as anticipated by Valet. In an effort to advance prosecution and clear up doubts about the order of events claim 1 has been amended to indicate that first the string is secured downhole and the seal assembly is secured at the wellhead and only then is tension pulled and retained. Valet can't do this. He first secures the string 14 with packer 16 downhole. Then he pulls tension causing the seal assembly that at that moment is unsecured, to rise up in the wellhead so that it can then be first secured by pins 36. Claim 1 requires the seal assembly to be secured before pulling tension. Valet is incapable of getting the seal assembly from its Figure 2 starting point to the Figure 3 securing point in the wellhead unless he pulls tension first. This is a very basic difference between what is claimed and what is in the prior art Valet reference. The Examiner must recognize that the ability to perform the method in the claimed order of claim 1 is made possible, in the preferred embodiment by a ratchet system that permits tension to be pulled with the string set downhole and the seal assembly set in the wellhead. Applicants are at a loss as to how to make the distinction between claim 1 and the prior art any clearer.

In claim 10, the tension is pulled with the string secured in the well and then with tension pulled the seal assembly can move relative to the string into the wellhead. Valet can't do this. He can pull the seal assembly into the wellhead while pulling tension. However, once he pulls tension his seal assembly location is fixed. Valet can't move the seal assembly 18 with respect to the string 14. They are hard piped together.

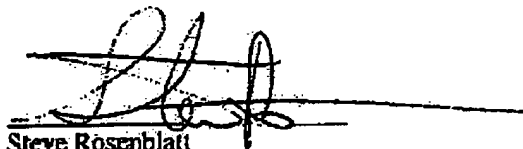
With regard to claim 22, Valet can't secure the seal assembly 18 to the wellhead without first pulling tension on hook 42. Claim 22 requires that the seal assembly is secured in the wellhead before tension is pulled on the string. Valley has to pull on the string to get the seal assembly in position to be secured in the wellhead. Valet is a totally different method.

Allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. Moreover, if it is believed that a telephonic interview will assist in advancing the pending claims toward allowance, the Examiner is sincerely invited to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

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